



**Risks** | **Responsibilities**  
Male Sexual Health and HIV in Asia  
and the Pacific-International Consultation  
New Delhi, India, 23-26 September 2006

COUNTRY : Malaysia

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Annexe(s) :

## MSM are formally organised

- Social groups : **No**                      Describe : **Only internet based support groups exist**
- Organisations : **No**                      Describe : **The ROS does not allow MSM societies**
- NGOs : **No**                                Describe :

There are none that are solely for MSM.

There is an MSM Programme within PT Foundation that runs volunteer based programmes for gay men eg weekly support group sessions, nightly telephone counseling and outreach at gay clubs, saunas, massage places and cruising parks. The focus of all these activities is on empowerment, HIV/AIDS Prevention, support and care programmes.

- CBOs : **No**                                Describe :
- Networks : **No**                            Describe :
- Other : **No**                                Describe :

## **MSM are in-formally organised : Yes**

### **Social Groups**

- **LPG** : Internet based support group with e-group forums, weekly sports activities, monthly coffee gatherings, monthly cinema outings, organized tours to local and regional tourist destinations
- **Plupenang**: Similar to LPG, with membership based in penang

### **b) Interest based groups**

- **Mature Men's Group**: Internet based group for social support. Meets monthly and informally.
- **Big Boyz**: Internet based group. Meets regularly for social support, outings, and community parties with volunteer- show performances
- **Gender genres**: Internet based group whose members exchange literary writings of interest to LGBTiQ issues

### **c) Loose alliances**

- **MyRainbow**: a coalition internet based group interested in LGBTiQ issues in Malaysia and internationally.

MSM specifically captured in the **National HIV Surveillance System** : **Yes**. But its reliability is questionable.

If “YES” :

**National HIV prevalence** among MSM :

Describe : Of 71,676 cumulative HIV cases reported in the Malaysian Ministry Of Health National AIDS Surveillance Report, until March 2006: 1.5% or 1,073 were infected through homosexual/bisexual activities.

[if available] **Sub-national HIV prevalence** among MSM : **No info**

Describe :

This includes **behaviour surveillance** : **No info**

Describe :

▪ **Surveillance Report date** : **March 2006**  
**Day 1**

**Covering [year]** : **1986-2006**.

**‘MSM and HIV’ - related research** available, ongoing or planned : **Yes**

If “YES”: Research published : **No**

1. Describe : UNAIDS has commissioned a qualitative study on the issues and needs of HIV positive persons in Malaysia, out of which MSM is one of the target groups.
2. Describe : There is a proposal to conduct a needs assessment study on MSM’s knowledge, attitude and practice on HIV and safe sex in Malaysia by the Malaysian AIDS Council that may be conducted in January 2007
3. Describe : A dip-stick

[add slides if needed] [attach summaries if possible]

**KEY INFORMATION GAPS** that hinder establishing and/or scaling up ‘MSM and HIV’ - specific programmes and interventions :

1. We do not know the extent of the problem of MSM HIV infection. Accurate Prevalence Study on MSM HIV infection is needed in order to know the extent of the problem and device strategies to address them.
2. We do not know the level of awareness among MSM on HIV transmission, prevention, care and treatment available. We need to find out to what extent do the various sub-groups know about HIV and Safe Sex so we can implement targetted programmes catered to their needs
3. We do not know the various sub-groups of MSM and their attitude towards HIV and Safe Sex. Knowing where they stand on such matters will greatly help in assessing what is the best strategies to modify their attitude.
4. We do not know how committed MSM are in practicing safe sex. Behavioural Studies on MSM Safe Sex Practices is important to be able to prescribe effective strategies to modify unsafe sex practices.

**Demographic data** available on males who have sex with males : No

**MSM - specific budget [lines] in the National HIV Plan :**

No MSM specific budgets set. But the Ministry Of Health has invited NGOs to submit proposals

**GFATM** : Y/N      Funds specifically earmarked for ‘MSM and HIV’ : **None**

If “YES” : CCM has MSM – specific representation : Y/N

Describe :

**Other international donor and/or multilateral institutions funds specifically earmarked for 'MSM and HIV' : None**

If "YES" List :

Describe :

**Donor coordination** in supporting 'MSM and HIV' – specific programmes and interventions (donors themselves and donors with government).

None

There is an **operational National Strategic Plan on HIV** : **YES**.

There are '**MSM and HIV**' - **specific interventions** in the National HIV Plan : **YES**

If "YES" : Coverage : 100% .....**X**..1% (indicate with "**x**" on scale)

MSM usage : 100% .....**X**..1% (indicate with "**x**" on scale)

Describe :

The NSP has just been approved. There are no action plans in operation yet.

These programmes reach **sub-populations of MSM** (trans gendered, etc) : Y/N

If "YES" : Coverage : 100% .....**X**..1% (indicate with "**x**" on scale)

MSM usage : 100% .....**X**..1% (indicate with "**x**" on scale)

Describe :

The NSP has just been approved. There are no action plans in operation yet.

**Male-to-male sex is legal** : No

MSM – specific HIV programmes face **problems with law enforcement** : YES

**Obstacles** [not related to information gaps] that hinder establishing and/or scaling up of ‘MSM and HIV’ – specific programmes and interventions : YES

1. Leadership:

Apart from PT Foundation there are no other NGOs doing HIV work among MSM. Leadership is weak; difficult to seek those with leadership abilities to do this work voluntarily. HIV+ MSM are not coming forward due to the stigma of being identified as HIV+. Only recently in response to the National Strategic Plan, Malaysian AIDS Council has prioritised MSM for intervention programmes. But they do not have the network or experience, and rely on PTF to reach the MSM population.

- **Capacity :**

There are no full time staff in Malaysia doing MSM HIV work. There is little money available to hire skilled people. Foreign funding is non existent. But we have a few committed volunteers doing good work but only in their spare time. For the programme to be effective, we need funding for full time directors, managers and field workers. We have applied for funding from MAC for 2007, and are waiting for approval.

- **Legal Constraints, Enforcement Agencies**

Huge legal and enforcement constraints. Sodomy and oral sex is illegal. There are Public Indecency Acts, Printing & Publications Act and Pornographic Laws that hinder effective outreach work at MSM sex-on-site premises. MSM on-site operators are constantly harassed by the police, town council officers, and the media, and dare not provide condoms and distribute safe sex materials. Outreach volunteers fear persecution.

- **Socio-Cultural-Religious-Media Constraints**
  - Many MSM are difficult to reach as they are under the radar; many are married, and do not live a gay lifestyle. Among Muslim MSM and some Christian MSM, many have furtive MSM activities while in denial.
  - The traditional conservative attitude towards homosexuals and homosexual sex in Malaysia makes it difficult to communicate to MSM; the print and TV media has strict regulations on condom promotion. Populist TV programmes and press dailies portray homosexuality in a negative light, and carry out expose on MSM venues offering sexual activities, making them very weary of carrying condoms and safe sex materials on premises

**‘MSM and HIV’ - specific interventions** in the National HIV Plan : **Yes**

If “YES” :

- HIV transmission prevention : **Yes**
- Information & communication : **Yes**
- Peer outreach : **Yes**
- Targeted condom distribution; including lubricants : **Yes**

**‘MSM and HIV’ - specific interventions** in the National HIV Plan : **Yes**

If “YES” :

- Access to treatment : **Yes**
- STI Services : **Not mentioned**
- Enabling environment : **Yes**
- Community engagement and empowerment : **Yes**

**‘MSM and HIV’ - specific interventions in the National HIV Plan : YES**

If “YES” :

- [MSM] NGO/CBO HIV competencies strengthening : Yes
- [MSM] NGO/CBO other competencies strengthening : Yes
- Support services : Yes
- Other : Y/N Describe :

**‘MSM and HIV’ - specific interventions** in the National HIV Plan : **YES**

If “YES” :These interventions are run by :

- CBO : **None yet** Describe :
- NGO : **Yes** Describe : **PT Foundation MSM Programme**
- INGO : **None** Describe :
- Local government : **No** Describe :
- National government : **No** Describe :
- Other : **No** Describe :

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**‘MSM and HIV’ are part of the country’s scaling up towards universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support initiative : YES as far as the intent goes. Only evident in the National Strategic Plan. No evidence yet on the ground as yet on how serious the Government is.**

**Additional Information and/or Comments :**

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